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Coastal protection, open space enshrined in proposal for Catherine Hill Bay

Plans exhibited by the NSW Government for Catherine Hill Bay enshrine the key elements of the NSW Government’s coastal protection policies and will protect the headland and the beach as open space.

Mr Kelly said that there are no plans to allow any developer to build across the headland or on the beach at Catherine Hill Bay.

“These areas are specifically protected by the NSW Government for ongoing open space by the local community,” Mr Kelly said.

“The proposed Catherine Hill Bay State environmental planning policy (SEPP) specifically protects the beach and headland area as open space, through the use of environmental-protection zones, in line with the existing planning policy. No additional dwelling houses will be allowed in these areas.

Mr Kelly said that the proposed SEPP actually provides specific and strong coastal protection provisions for Catherine Hill Bay and includes guarantees that any development in the area is in line with the NSW Coastal Policy.

“This policy has been in place for many years to ensure public access to the foreshore and stop inappropriate overshadowing, among many other coastal protection measures.

Mr Kelly said that the proposed SEPP includes specific provisions relating to development in coastal areas, which includes provisions of SEPP 71 and key elements of SEPP 1. This mirrors the approach being used in the standard instrument LEPs across the State.

“This is simply a legal drafting measure to include the relevant coastal protection provisions specifically within the SEPP for Catherine Hill Bay, rather than in a separate instrument (SEPP 71),” Mr Kelly said.

“This means people wanting to find out the relevant planning provisions for Catherine Hill Bay can largely find out what is allowed on the land in the one instrument, rather than having to look through a series of other SEPPs.

“Furthermore, the coastal protection measures in the proposed SEPP are exactly the same as the measures in place in the current SEPP covering Catherine Hill Bay,” Mr Kelly said.

“Both of the above measures are consistent with the recommendations of an independent panel several years ago.

Mr Kelly said that the proposed State environmental planning policy for the land at Catherine Hill Bay village and Gwandalan was placed on public exhibition on July 28.

At the same time, a proposal to place the Catherine Hill Bay village on the State heritage list was publicly-exhibited.